



NAME: LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (LCDR)
RICHARD O. DECEDERFELT

JOB TITLE: DRUG STANDARD &
UTILIZATION OFFICER

AGENCY: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF
HEALTH (NIH)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

LCDR Richard DeCederfelt received his Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy in May of 1994 from the Howard University School of Pharmacy in Washington D.C. He received Level I Acquisition Authority in 2004 and is currently enrolled at the University of Maryland working towards a Master of Sciences in Information Systems.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

As the Drug Standards and Utilization Officer in the Pharmaceutical Procurement Section at the NIH, LCDR DeCederfelt is responsible for the procurement of pharmaceutical supplies required by the 20+ Institutes and Centers conducting clinical research at the NIH Clinical Research Center. He ensures that the procurement of supplies and services are obtained using the appropriate procedures and ordering mechanisms; evaluates pharmaceutical purchases to ensure best value and clinical appropriateness; and authorizes the procurement of pharmaceuticals, equipment, supplies, and services ensuring compliance with all related procurement regulations (Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), Homeland Security Acquisition Regulations (HSAR), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and NIH policies. Other duties include creating and analyzing financial reports used to manage the \$36 million drug and related supplies budget used to determine potential cost saving strategies; the purchase, inventory, and distribution of controlled substances throughout the Pharmacy Department and processing of expired supplies in accordance with DEA regulations; and communication and interaction with vendors, sales representatives, physicians, nurses and other patient care staff in relation to acquisition planning for the Pharmacy Department.

Collateral duties for LCDR DeCederfelt include serving as system administrator for the Investigational Drug Management System; a member of the Clinical Research Information System requirements committee; the Pharmacy Department point of contact for NIH Business System; the Pharmacy Department administrator for registering, deregistering, and training users for remote access to secure NIH computing services and NIH Commissioned Corps Promotion Ceremony committee member and Medication Security Team Leader.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

LCDR DeCederfelt served as a pharmacy technician from July 1987 through September 1994 for the NIH pharmacy department before joining the NIH as a staff pharmacist that same year. The experience he gained as a technician and while working in the Pharmaceutical Development Section of the Pharmacy Department, including formulation of pharmaceuticals for clinical use, clinical trial design, and design of an investigational drug system provided the background and expertise that helped him transition to his current position. He also completed training in government acquisition and obtained certification as a Level I acquisition authority for his current position.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

During the interview, LCDR DeCederfelt cited both his experience in the Commissioned Officer Student Training and Externship (COSTEP) program with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) division of Anti-Viral Drug Products and serving as a technician in a variety of differing departments within the NIH as instrumental in his decision to join the USPHS. While as a COSTEP, LCDR DeCederfelt was exposed firsthand to life as a Commissioned Corps officer.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

LCDR DeCederfelt served as a junior COSTEP in the summer of 1992 at the FDA, and upon graduation his first assignment was as a staff pharmacist in the NIH Pharmaceutical Development Section working primarily with all aspects of clinical protocol support, but was later promoted to Investigational Drug Pharmacist where he designed and developed the patent-pending Investigational Drug Management System.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

During Hurricane Katrina, LCDR DeCederfelt deployed with the Mississippi State Hospital Augmentation Team in various sites around Mississippi. There he served with a variety of pharmacists with differing PHS backgrounds providing him with a greater understanding of other divisions' pharmacy duties. Also, the daily opportunity to interact with the numerous brilliant minds at the NIH makes the LCDR DeCederfelt's position very gratifying.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

LCDR DeCederfelt has a strong interest in both computer management systems and protocol design no doubt witnessed by his return to school for attainment of his Masters in Information Systems.